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Newsletter

DEC 1 1952

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
others associated with the Graduate School:

November 18, 1952

"EXECUTIVE-LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS"

has been chosen as the general topic for the Jump-McKillop Memorial lecture series and plans call for the first lecture in the series to be given early in January.

The committee in charge is inviting distinguished speakers to present different aspects of the subject. There will be 7 or 8 lectures in all -- held at 2 week intervals. If interest is as keen as the committee anticipates, we will move the series from Jefferson auditorium to the Departmental auditorium. The lectures will be published by GS.

This is the first year the series has been given. It was established in honor of two able civil servants -- William A. Jump and Thomas McKillop -- who were active in the development of GS.

Members of the committee for the series are: W. A. Minor (USDA), chairman; David Brown (MSA), John Thurston (USDA), Martin Kriesberg (USDA), Oliver Ramsey (Navy), and O. B. Conaway (GS).

CREDIT TOWARD ADVANCED DEGREES

for certain GS courses would be a tremendous boon to some young men and women who enroll here. Even though GS gives no degrees, these students have been attracted by the high caliber of the instructors and by the fact that some of the work offered here can not be duplicated elsewhere.

We have begun discussions with officials in some of the Universities that grant advanced degrees in fields where GS offerings are strong. Our objective is to set up a plan whereby these schools will give credit for specified GS courses toward a doctorate. If you have any suggestions as to how a plan of this type might best be worked out, we shall be happy to receive them.

SOME 20 FEDERAL AGENCIES

in the Boston area have shown a genuine interest in the training program which Boston University is inaugurating with GS assistance. The effort is based on the assumption that many Government employees in the area will take courses generally related to their jobs or will continue their general education if courses are offered under favorable circumstances.

The first of the courses scheduled to begin in January are: POSITION CLASSIFICATION IN THE FEDERAL SERVICE with Robert Palmer, chief of the regional classification division, CSC, as instructor; TECHNIQUES FOR EFFECTIVE SUPERVISION OF PERSONNEL with Walter Mode, executive administrator of FSA, teaching the course; and FEDERAL ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES to be taught by O. E. Paquin, regional director of GAO.

Mr. Mode is a member of the Boston advisory committee appointed by the Federal Personnel Council. Working with him are Lyman Hayes, personnel director, and Thomas Whitney, both of the Boston Ordnance District; Alvina Clouse, personnel director of the Boston Marine Hospital; and Joseph Talbot, personnel director of the Watertown Arsenal.

These 3 classes will meet for only 7 weeks each and a minimum enrollment of 25 students in each will be required. No college credit will be given for these courses.

ON-THE-JOB IMPROVEMENT

is the practical motivation back of a high proportion of GS enrollments. Students frequently tell us they have moved on to better jobs as the direct result of GS training. Robert Neikirk's timely course, FUNDAMENTALS OF TELEPHONY, appears to be a pace-setter along this line. Three of his students recently have reported benefits from taking the course. It earned an initial pay raise for Clarence Wilkerson when he took a job with AT&T. It brought a grade raise for Mrs. Dolores Henry at the Army Signal Corps; and it was credited by Herbert G. Bryan as being a key factor in getting his present job with the District Public Works Office.

The course, which Mr. Neikirk began teaching last fall, is divided into two parts, each offered in alternate years. The work this fall deals with the principles of manual and dial central office transmission, repeater, carrier, composite, and radio equipment. Mr. Neikirk, who holds a BSEE from Purdue University, is an engineer with the technical standards division of REA.

PUBLICITY ON A NEW GS COURSE

invariably brings queries as to its availability through correspondence. As you may know, GS has a small program of correspondence courses. Some 200 students -- well scattered geographically -- are enrolled. To the 11 courses now on the list we are adding 5 others. Two, now at the printer, will be ready in the near future. These are: SOILS AND SOIL MANAGEMENT and HYDROLOGY. The first was prepared by J. Gordon Steele, a member of the GS faculty since 1942. The papers will be graded by Nathan I. Brown, SCS, who is teaching the class in residence while Dr. Steele is on as FAO assignment in Jamaica. The second was prepared by Ray Linsley, a former GS teacher now on the faculty of Stanford University. Max Kohler of the Weather Bureau, who since 1950 has taught the course in residence, will grade the correspondence papers.

Although only a small percentage of the people who begin correspondence courses finish them in the allotted time, those who complete the courses often tell us they found the study quite worthwhile.

A recent testimonial came from Charles M. Hood, SCS district conservationist at Creston, Iowa. A student in REPORT WRITING, he wrote a term paper in the form of an appraisal and general impression of the course. Referring to 678 reports prepared annually by SCS workers Mr. Hood said, "Though most of these are standard numerical reports, they nearly always require an explanatory statement. In addition to the standard reports we need to make the most of field observations and improved techniques. Generally these suggestions must be conveyed in written reports. Many written suggestions are not clear. They result in misunderstanding. This barrier to progress can be removed only through proper training. I have found this course to be very helpful. I do not hesitate to recommend it to anyone who sincerely wants to improve his work."

SCHEDULES FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER

have gone to the printer. Among new courses are: HIGHER ALGEBRA, which will deal with some of the advanced theorems not covered in college algebra; ATMOSPHERIC RADIATION, an introduction to the fundamental principles of radiative heat transfer and their application to atmospheric processes; MARKETING LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS, an advanced course dealing with the economic aspects; and CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, which will be concerned with the position of the United States in the world today.

At the request of a group of prospective students from the Geological Survey, we have re-scheduled PRINCIPLES OF ORE DEPOSITION. This course was dropped when the instructor left Washington.

A NEW APPROACH TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE

is used by Mrs. Magna Bauer in EVERYDAY GERMAN. Beginning last spring Mrs. Bauer designed the course for beginners as well as review students. As she teaches it, the course provides enough background for those who need to know some German in traveling and to read it for pleasure.

NEARLY 600 FELLOWS

will receive advanced training in science under the second graduate fellowship program of the National Science Foundation. The selection is based solely on ability. If you are interested, write the National Science Foundation, Washington 25, D. C. Applications must be in by January 5, 1953.

J. C. Doster, chief of employment, FCDA, is teaching the class in PUBLIC PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION formerly given by Virgil Couch. His recent appointment as director of the Civil Defense College at Olney, Maryland led Mr. Couch to withdraw as instructor in GS.

We note in a recent announcement from the University of Chicago that a former GS instructor is now teaching in the University's downtown center. He is J. Stevens Stock, co-teacher last year with Joseph Hochstim, of the courses, QUESTIONNAIRE CONSTRUCTION AND INTERVIEWING and MARKET AND OPINION RESEARCH. Dr. Stock is now director of media and research for McCann-Erickson Inc., in Chicago.

Sincerely,



Director